

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07

/080 W

-----051801Z 069996 /46

O R 051625Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 310

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LAGOS 3813

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG, AO, NI

SUBJECT: FMG BRIEFING ON NIGERIAN MEDIATION EFFORTS WITH ZAIRE
AND ANGOLA

REF: (A) LAGOS 3720 ; (B) LAGOS 3708: (C) KINSHASA 3062.

SUMMARY: DIRECTOR MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (MEA) AFRICA
DEPARTMENT BRIEFED DCM APRIL 4 ON CURRENT STATUU NIGERIAN
MEDIATION EFFORTS AND INFORMED HIM ANGOLAN MINISTERIAL DELEGATION
EXPECTED IN LAGOS APRIL 5 FOR FURTHER TALKS. MAIN PURPOSE OF
BRIEFING WAS TO CONVEY FMG'S HOPE THAT USG WOULD CONTINUE
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REFRAIN FROM ANY ACTION THAT MIGHT ESCALATE FIGHTING. HE
SUGGESTED UUG MIGHT USEFULLY URGE MOBUTU TO REFRAIN FROM
SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF ANGOLA (FNLA)
AND THE FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF CABINDA (FLEC) FORCES.
DIRECTOR CONCLUDED WITH PLEA FOR ANY INFORMATION ON SHABA
DEVELOPMENTS WHICH WOULD HELP FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT (FMG)
IN ITS MEDIATION EFFORTS. END SUMMARY.

1. AMBASSADOR AKADIRI, DIRECTOR MEA'S AFRICA DEPARTMENT, WHO ACCOMPANIED EXTAFF COMMISSIONER GARBA TO KINSHASA AND LUANDA LAST WEEK, ASKED DCM TO MEET WITH HIM AFTERNOON APRIL 4, EGAN WITH BRIEFING ON STATUS FNIGERIAN MEDIATION EFFORTS.

(A) ON GARBA MISSION: RECEPTION IN KINSHASA HAD BEEN CORDIAL AND ZAIRIANS WERE MOST COOPERATIVE IN PROVIDING INFORMATION TO HELP NIGERIANS ASSESS SITUATION. REACTION IN LUANDA, HOWEVER, HAD BEEN DIFFERENT. NETO AT OUTSET DENIED ANGOLAN INVOLVEMENT IN SHABA, CLAIMED SITUATION PURELY INTERNAL ZAIRIAN AFFAIR, AND CONTENDED THERE WAS NOTHING TO DISCUSS. AKTER NIGERIANS POINTED OUT THAT KATANGESE HAD TO BE OPERATING FROM BASES SOMEWHERE, NETO HAD FINALLY CONCEDED THEY HAD BASES IN ANGOLA. DCM ASKED ABOUT SOURCE OF ARMS EMPLOYED BY KATANGESE, BUT AKADIRI SAID FMG HAD NOT PUSHED THIS POINT, ADDING THAT IN ANY EVENT ANGOLANS HAD NO ARMS INDUSTRY OF THEIR OWN. DCM EMPHASIZED THIS WAS MATTER OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE, AS KATANGESE APPEARED WELL ARMED WITH SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS, AND WHETHER THESE CAME FROM THE SOVIETS OR ELSEWHERE, THE KATANGESE HAD OBVIOUSLY BEEN GIVEN THE WEAPONS AND TRAINED IN THEIR USE ON ANGOLAN SOIL. DCM ASKED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF SEALING ANGOLAN BORDER BUT AKADIRI MAINTAINED THIS HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED WITH NETO. IN ANY CASE, HE SAID, IT WAS A TWO-WAY STREET; NETO HAD COMPLAINED OF CONTINUING ZAIRIAN SUPPORT FOR FNLA AND FLEC ACTIVITIES IN NORTHERN ANGOLA AND CABINDA. DCM SAID WE HAD STRONG IMPRESSION ZAIRE HAD CEASED SUCH SUPPORT AND ASKED IF

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ANGOLANS OFFERED ANY EVIDENCE TO PROVE THEIR CHARGE. AKADIRI SAID NIGERIANS HAD NOT ASKED FOR PROOF, AS THEY HAD NOT ASKED MOBUTU FOR PROOF OF ANGOLAN INVOLVEMENT IN SHABA. THESE WERE OPENING DISCUSSIONS, AND THE NIGERIAN ROLE HAD BEEN MAINLY TO LISTEN.

(B) NEXT STEP IS TO ESTABLISH THE FACTS. NETO'S ADMISSION THAT KATANGESE ARE OPERATING FROM BASIS INSIDE ANGOLA IS A BEGINNING. OBJECTIVE IS TO PREVENT ESCALATION OF CONFLICT; IT IS NOT IN ANYONE'S INTEREST TO HAVE INSTABILITY OR STATE OF WAR IN HEART OF AFRICA. MOREOVER, AKADIRI SAID FMG IS CATEGORICALLY OPPOSED TO SECSION OF ANY SORT AND UNDERScoreD THIS IN THE TALKS WITH NETO. DCM SAID USG SHARES THESE VIEWS. AKADIRI SAID NIGERIA DOESN'T HAVE "LEVERAGE" WITH NETO TO FORCE COMPROMISES BUT DOES ENJOY "INFLUENCE" WITH BOTH SIDES WHICH IT HOPES CAN BRING THE TWO SIDES TOGETHER. AKADIRI SAID PRESS REPORTS THAT ANGOLANS HAVE REJECTED NIGERIAN MEDIATION OFFER (REFTEL (A)) BEGINNING OF TALKS WITH GARBA, NOT AT END. MINISTERIAL-

LEVEL ANGOLAN DELEGATION IS EXPECTED IN LAGOS APRIL 5
FOR FURTHER TALKS. AKADIRI ADDED THAT OAU'S SECRETARY
GENERAL IS VISITING KINSHASA, SO IT IS POSSIBLE OAU
MIGHT BEGIN TO PLAY A ROLE IN THE SITUATION.

2. U.S. ROLE: LEADING UP TO MAIN PURPOSE OF MEETING,
AKADIRI SAID FMG HAS BEEN "GRATIFIED" AT "POSITIVE ATTITUDE"
USG HAS MAINTAINED, SHOWING RESTRAINT, AVOIDING ESCALATING
ACTIONS AND ENDORSING FMG EFFORTS AT MEDIATION. THIS HAS
PRECLUDED POSSIBLE SOVIET INTERVENTION AND RETALIATORY
ESCALATION. FMG HOPES USG WILL MAINTAIN THIS STANCE" UNTIL
ALL ELSE FAILS". ADDITIONALLY, FMG BELIEVES USG MIGHT
"USEFULLY" APPLY ITS EXTENSIVE INFLUENCE WITH MOBUTU TO GET HIM
TO KEEP THE "SOLEMN UNDERTAKING" HE GAVE NETO LAST YEAR AND
REFRAIN FROM SUPPORTING OR ENCOURAGING THE FORCES OF FLEC
AND FNLA.

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3. SITUATION IN SHABA: DISCUSSING THE SITUATION IN SHABA,
AKADIRI SAID ZAIRIANS " SEEMED CONFIDENT" THAT THEY COULD
"CONTAIN THE INVASION" HE DID NOT APPEAR CONCERNED THAT
MOBUTU WAS IN ANY IMMINENT DANGER. WITHOUT GIVING AKADIRI
AN APOCALYPTIC VIEW OF ZAIRE SITUATION, DCM SAID WE
CONSIDERED IT SERIOUS AND ARE CONCERNED OVER POTENTIAL
THREAT IT MIGHT HOLD FOR MOBUTU. DCM ASKED AKADIRI HOW
FMG EXPECTS SITUATION MIGHT EVOLVE IF INDEED MOBUTU'S CONTROL
WERE AFFECTED. AKADIRI DEFLECTED THIS, SAYING THAT IS A
BRIDGE FMG WILL CROSS WHEN IT COMES TO IT. DCM SPECULATED THEY
MIGHT FIND THE BRIDGE BURNED WHEN THEY COME TO IT. AKADIRI
ASKED HOW SITUATION WAS ON THE GROUND IN SHABA AND WHAT
EFFECT REPORTED SHIPMENTS OF ARMS FROM BELGIUM AND FRANCE
HAD HAD ON THE MILITARY SITUATION: WERE THESE ARMS HELPING

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

ACDA-07 /080 W

-----061924Z 080107 /40

O R 051625Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 311

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LAGOS 3813

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR TEXT

CAPETOWN FOR EMBAUSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG, AO, NI

SUBJECT: FMG BRIEFING ON NIGERIAN MEDIATION EFFORTS WITH ZAIRE
AND ANGOLA

REF: (A) LAGOS 3720; (B) LAGOS 3708 (C) KINSHASA 3062.

BRING THE MATTER TO A SWIFT CONCLUSION? DCM SAID HE HAD NO
INFORMATION THAT REFLECTED SPECIFIC IMPACT OF NEW ARMS
SHIPMENTS ON SITUATION, PERHAPS BECAUSE OTHER SIDE ALSO IS
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BEING ARMED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCES. SAID THERE DID NOT APPEAR
TO BE ANY MAJOR CHANGE IN POSITIONS HELD BY THE TWO SIDES.
AKADIRI ASKED IF THIS MEANT THE KATANGESE WERE RUNNING OUT OF
STEAM; DCM REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE-- THEY ARE LIKELY
GROUPING FOR ATTACK ON KOLWEZI, THE LOSS OF WHICH WOULD BE
SERIOUS TO ZAIRE. AKADIRI OFFERED THE VIEW THAT FALL OF
KOLWEZI WOULD NOT "NECESSARILY" BE A NEGATIVE FACTOR; IT
MIGHT MAKE "ONE SIDE MORE INCLINED TO NEGOTIATE". IN
REPOSE TO QUESTION WHAT THERE WAS TO NEGOTIATE, AKADIRI
SAID WHILE OBJECTIVES OF KATANGESE INSURGENTS ARE UNCLEAR
(FMG IS NOT IN TOUCH WITH THEM AND HAS NO PLANS TO BRING
THEM INTO NEGOTIATIONS AT PRESENT EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE A
"VITAL" FACTOR IN THE EQUATION), IT APPEARS THEY SEEK TO
"EMBARRASS" MBOTU AND CRIPPLE ZAIRE'S ECONOMY. AKADIRI
WOULD NOT SPECULATE WHETHER THE ULTIMATE AIM WAS SECESSION
OR MOBUTU'S OVERTHROW. (ONE WOULD SUPPOSE THE FIRST MIGHT

PRODUCE THE SEOND).

4. FMG MATERIAL SUPPORT: IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, AKA-DIRI DENIED THAT FMG HAD BEEN ASKED FOR ANY MATERIAL ASSISTANCE BY ZAIRE. HE INSISTED THAT NIGERIA HAD ONLY BEEN ASKED TO USE ITS GOOD OFFICES IN SEEKING A AOLUTION TO ITS PROBLEMS WITH ANGOLA.

5. PLEA FOR INFORMATION: AKADIRI CONCLUDED BY EXPRESSING FMG'S DESIRE TO KEEP USG FULLY INFORMED, ASSURING US MEDIATION EFFORTS CONTINUE, AND REITERATING THIS IS AN AFRICAN PROBLEM BEST UNDERSTOOD AND DEALT WITH BY AFRICANS WITHOUT INJECTION OF GREAT POWER RIVALRIES. HE MADE SPECIAL PLEA FOR ANY INFORMATION ON SITUATION WHICH WOULD HELP FMG IN ITS MEDIATION EFFORTS.

6 COMMENT: PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS CLEARLY TO ASSURE FMG THAT NIGERIAN MEDIATION EFFORT HAS NOT REPEAT NOT FAILED AND TO URGE US RESTRAINT. IN THIS CONNECTION IT WAS REMARKABLE AKADIRI DID NOT SEEM CONCERNED OR DISAPPROVING REGARDING CONFIDENTIAL

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REPORTED BELGIAN/FENCH ARMS SHIPMENTS AND ONLY WANTED TO KNOW HOW EFFECTIVE THEY HAD BEEN.

7. AS AKADIRI APPEARED TO BELIEVE SOME ASSURANCE FROM MOBUTU RE CESSATION OF SUPPORT FOR FNLA AND FLEC MIGHT HELP FMG IN ITS NEGOTIATIONS WIH NETO, WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR ANY HARD INFORMATION WASHINGTON CAN PROVIDE ON ACTUAL STATUS OF MOBUTU'S RELATIONS WITH THESE TWO ORGANIZATIONS.

8. ON THE BROADER SUBJECT OF INFORMATION EXCHANGE, IT IS IN OUR INTEREST TO MAINTAIN AND ENCOURAGE PRESENT CLOSE RELATIONSHIP OF CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION OF POSITION. WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE WASHINGTON AUTHORIZING US TO PASS MEA AS MUCH INFORMATION ON SHABA AND GENERAL ZAIRE SITUATION AS APPEARS ADVISABLE. THERE IS AN OBVIOUS DILEMMA IN THIS, AS WE WANT TO GIVE THEM ENOUGH TO MAKE CLEAR THE NEED FOR URGENT ACTION BUT DO NOT WANT THEM TO GET SO DARK AN IMPRESSION THAT THEY CONCLUDE IT IS A LOST CAUSE.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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